

In the Claims:

The below listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 ~~a transmitter for transmitting packets of data; and~~
 means for controlling ~~the a~~ transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside a network of low power radio frequency transceivers, the apparatus being configured ~~arranged~~ to form the network of transceivers,
 means for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining synchronization.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 arranged to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for punctuating, punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

punctuating a series of messages of a first type transmitted by a master transceiver outside a network of low power radio frequency transceivers, the network of transceivers comprising the master transceiver and at least one slave transceiver, with messages of a second type transmitted within the network of communicating transceivers for maintaining synchronization.

11. (Previously Presented) A storage medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a controller of a low power radio frequency transceiver perform punctuating transmission of a series of messages of a first type comprising a first synchronization word independent of the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver, with messages of a second type comprising a second synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the series of messages of a first type are punctuated with a message of a second type periodically.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

~~a transmitter configured for transmitting packets of data;~~

a controller configured for controlling ~~a~~ the transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside a network of low power radio frequency transceivers, the apparatus being configured to form the network of transceivers, and configured for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining synchronization.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19 configured to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the network of transceivers is configured to use a first frequency hopping sequence.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are configured to be transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the messages of the second type are configured to be broadcast.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the controller is configured to punctuate the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the messages of the

second type are configured to not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the apparatus.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein messages of the second type are configured to be transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the apparatus.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 10.

29. (Previously Presented) A storage medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein the punctuating punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.